

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 26 and ending on page 9, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph.

In a further preferred aspect of the present invention, the abnormal pixel determining means is constituted so as to calculate an average value A, the maximum value MAX and the minimum value MIN of the density signal levels of pixels adjacent to each subject pixel and judge that the difference between the density signal level of the subject pixel and the density signal levels of the pixels adjacent to the subject pixel is greater than the predetermined level when the density signal level x of the subject pixel satisfies:

$$x > A + (MAX - MIN) * n, \text{ or} \\ x < A - (MAX - MIN) * n$$

wherein n is a positive constant.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 16 and ending on page 25, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph.

On the other hand, when the density signal level of the subject pixel C is minimum among the density signal levels of the 3 * 3 pixels, there is a probability that the subject pixel C corresponds to a specific dot-like white pixel. However, even when the density signal level of the subject pixel C is minimum among the density signal levels of the 3 * 3 pixels, if the density signal level of the subject pixel C is not abnormally lower than the density signal levels of other pixels, it can be considered that the reason why the density signal level of the subject pixel C is minimum among the density signal levels of the 3 * 3 pixels might not be because the image produced on the screen of the CRT 4 is based on image data obtained by photoelectrically detecting light emitted from an image carrier using the CCD 6 to produce analog image data and digitizing the analog data with the A/D converter 10. Therefore, the abnormal pixel determining section 82 further calculates the average value A, the maximum value MAX and the minimum value MIN of density signal levels of the 3 * 3 pixels excluding the subject pixel C and

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determines whether or not the density signal level x of the subject pixel C satisfies the following formula.

$$x < A \left[\left[\frac{+}{-} \right] \right] - (MAX-MIN) * n$$

wherein n is a constant and is normally set between 1 and 2.